

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet comprising:

(a) a dispenser housing including a base wall, two lateral walls, a front  
5 wall, a back wall and an upper dispensing wall provided with a  
dispensing aperture;

(b) a replaceable cartridge of inter-folded sheet comprising:

10 (i) a stack support member;

(ii) a stack of inter-folded sheets secured about the support  
member in a U-shape;

15 (iii) a shrink wrap envelope about the stack securing the U-  
shaped stack of the inter-folded sheets about the support  
member, the shrink wrap envelope being provided with a  
dispensing region, wherein the inter-folded sheets are  
secured about the support member such that their tail edges  
are generally parallel with the dispensing region of the  
envelope, and wherein the support member and the  
20 dispenser are configured such that the cartridge is supported  
so that the dispensing region coincides with the dispensing  
aperture of the dispenser.

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2. The dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet according to Claim 1, wherein  
the support member is a generally rectangular support member.

30 3. The dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet according to Claim 1, wherein  
the support member is a generally rectangular core member having an upper  
core edge, a lower core edge and two lateral core edges, wherein the lateral

core edges extend outwardly with respect to the U-shaped stack and cooperate with channels in the lateral walls of the dispenser to support the cartridge in the dispenser such that the dispensing region of the shrink wrap envelope coincides with the aperture of the dispenser.

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4. The dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet according to Claim 3, wherein the lateral core edges extend outwardly with respect to the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheet a distance of from about 1/16" to about 1/2".

10 5. The dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet according to Claim 4, wherein the lateral core edges extend outwardly with respect to the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets a distance of from about 1/8" to about 1/4".

15 6. The dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the dispensing aperture extends generally over the same length as the widths of the sheets to be dispensed and narrows significantly at its outermost extents so as to hold the next to be dispensed sheet in a generally vertical posture.

7. A dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet comprising:

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(a) a dispenser housing including a base, two lateral walls, a front wall, a back wall and an upper dispensing wall provided with a dispensing aperture, wherein the lateral sidewalls of the dispenser housing are provided with support channels;

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(b) a dispenser cartridge comprising:

(i) a generally planar rectangular core defining an upper core edge, a lower core edge and two lateral core edges;

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- (ii) a stack of inter-folded sheets wrapped about the upper edge of the generally planar rectangular core in a U-shape, the stack and core being sized such that lateral edges of the core extend outwardly from the U-shaped stack a predetermined distance therefrom;
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- (iii) a shrink wrap envelope about the stack securing the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets about the core, the shrink wrap envelope being provided with a dispensing region generally parallel to the upper edge of the core, wherein the inter-folded sheets are secured about the core such that their tail edges are generally parallel with the dispensing region of the envelope;
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- 15        wherein further the cartridge and dispenser housing are configured such that the lateral edges of the core engage the support channels of the lateral walls of the dispenser housing and the cartridge is configured such that the dispensing line of the shrink wrap envelope is presented to the dispensing aperture of the housing.
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8. The dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet according to Claim 7, wherein the lower edge of the core of the cartridge extends outwardly from the stack of inter-folded sheet secured thereabout.
- 25     9. The dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet according to Claim 8, wherein the base of the dispenser housing has a support channel for engaging the lower edge of the core of the cartridge in order to secure the cartridge in the housing.
- 30     10. The dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet according to Claim 7, wherein the dispensing aperture extends generally over the same length as the widths

of the sheets to be dispensed and narrows significantly at its outermost extents so as to hold the next to be dispensed sheet in a generally vertical posture.

11. An inter-folded sheet dispenser cartridge comprising:

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(a) a generally planar rectangular core defining an upper core edge, a lower core edge and two lateral core edges;

10 (b) a stack of inter-folded sheets wrapped about the upper edge of the generally planar rectangular core in a U-shape, the stack and core being sized such that lateral edges of the core extend outwardly from the U-shaped stack a predetermined distance therefrom; and

15 (c) a shrink wrap envelope about the stack securing the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets about the core, the shrink wrap envelope being provided with a dispensing region generally parallel to the upper edge of the core, wherein the inter-folded sheets are secured about the core such that their tail edges are generally parallel with the dispensing region of the envelope.

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12. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein the lateral edges of the core extend outwardly from the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets a distance of from about 1/16" to about 1/2".

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13. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 12, wherein the lateral edges of the core extend outwardly from the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets a distance of from about 1/8" to about 1/4".

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14. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein the lower edge of the core extends outwardly from the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets a predetermined distance.

15. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein the lower edge of the core extends outwardly from the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets a distance of from about 1/16" to about 1/2".
- 5      16. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 15, wherein the lower edge of the core extends outwardly from the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets a distance of from about 1/8" to about 1/4".
- 10     17. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein the dispensing region of the shrink wrap envelope is defined by a perforate line.
18. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 17, further comprising a band securing the U-shaped stack to the core.
- 15    19. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 18, wherein the band has a perforated area to facilitate rupturing thereof in order to release sheets.
20. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein the stack of inter-folded sheets is a stack of single fold inter-folded sheets.
- 20    21. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein the stack of inter-folded sheets is a stack of inter-folded food service sheets.
- 25    22. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein the stack of inter-folded sheets is a stack of single fold inter-folded food service sheets.
23. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the single fold inter-folded food service sheets have an overall size of about 6" x 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- 30    24. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the single fold inter-folded food service sheets have an overall size of about 8" x 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

25. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the single fold inter-folded food service sheets have an overall size of about 10" x 10¾".
26. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the single fold inter-folded food service sheets have an overall size of about 12" x 10¾".  
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27. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the single fold inter-folded food service sheets have an overall size of about 15" x 10¾".
- 10 28. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein the stack of inter-folded food service sheets is selected from the group consisting of C-fold inter-folded food service sheets, multi-fold inter-folded food service sheets and Z-fold inter-folded food service sheets.
- 15 29. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the stack of inter-folded food service sheets is a stack of inter-folded bakery tissue.
30. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the stack of inter-folded food service sheets is a stack of inter-folded bakery sheets.
- 20 31. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the stack of inter-folded food service sheets is a stack of inter-folded deli sheets.
32. The dispenser cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein the stack of inter-folded food service sheets is a stack of inter-folded sandwich wrap.  
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33. A dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet comprising:  
  
30 (a) a dispenser housing configured to receive a replaceable cartridge of inter-folded sheets including a base wall and an upper dispensing wall provided with a dispensing aperture;

- (b) biasing means;
- (c) the replaceable cartridge of inter-folded sheets comprising:
  - 5 (i) a stack support member;
  - (ii) a stack of inter-folded sheets secured about the support member in a U-shape;
  - 10 (iii) a shrink wrap envelope about the stack securing the U-shaped stack of the inter-folded sheets about the support member, the shrink wrap envelope being provided with a dispensing region, wherein the inter-folded sheets are secured about the support member such that their tail edges are generally parallel with the dispensing region of the envelope, and wherein the support member and the dispenser are configured such that the cartridge is supported so that the dispensing region coincides with the dispensing aperture of the dispenser,
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  - 20 (d) wherein the biasing means is adapted to urge the cartridge upwardly so as to maintain the sheets in proximity with the dispensing aperture as the cartridge is consumed.
- 25 34. The dispenser according to Claim 33, wherein the biasing means comprises a spring member secured to the base wall of the dispenser.
- 35. The dispenser according to Claim 34, wherein the spring member is provided with means for engaging it to the cartridge.

36. A dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet comprising:

5           (a) a dispenser housing including a base wall, two lateral walls, a front wall, a back wall and an upper dispensing wall provided with a dispensing aperture;

10           (b) a replaceable cartridge of inter-folded sheets disposed in the housing comprising:

15           (i) a stack support member;

20           (ii) a stack of inter-folded sheets secured about the support member in a U-shape;

25           (iii) a shrink wrap envelope about the stack securing the U-shaped stack of the inter-folded sheets about the support member, the shrink wrap envelope being provided with a dispensing region, wherein the inter-folded sheets are secured about the support member such that their tail edges are generally parallel with the dispensing region of the envelope, and wherein the support member and the dispenser are configured such that the cartridge is supported so that the dispensing region coincides with the dispensing aperture of the dispenser,

30           wherein the front and back wall of the dispenser housing are of a first height of lesser height than a second, central height of the sidewalls of the housing in order to facilitate replacement and loading of the cartridge.

37. The dispenser according to Claim 36, wherein the sidewalls of the container have raised central support portions for receiving the replaceable cartridge.

38. The dispenser according to Claim 37, wherein the sidewalls of the container  
5 have an apex at their central portions and decrease in height toward the back and front walls of the housing.

39. The dispenser according to Claim 38, wherein the front, back and sidewalls of the housing are of equal height at junctures thereof.  
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40. A dispenser for dispensing inter-folded sheet comprising:

(a) a dispenser housing including an upper dispensing wall provided with a dispensing aperture;

15 (b) a replaceable cartridge of inter-folded sheets disposed in the housing comprising:

(i) a stack support member having a length, L;

20 (ii) a stack of inter-folded sheets secured about the support member in a U-shape;

25 (iii) a shrink wrap envelope about the stack securing the U-shaped stack of the inter-folded sheets about the support member, the shrink wrap envelope being provided with a dispensing region, wherein the inter-folded sheets are secured about the support member such that their tail edges are generally parallel with the dispensing region of the envelope, and wherein the support member and the dispenser are configured such that the cartridge is supported  
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so that the dispensing region coincides with the dispensing aperture of the dispenser; and

- 5                   (c) a removable adapter for disposing inside of the housing at a predetermined location configured to provide support for the cartridge stack support member of length,  $L$ .

10                 41. The dispenser according to Claim 40, wherein the adapter is a generally planar member and the housing is provided with at least one slot to receive the adapter plate.

15                 42. The dispenser according to Claim 40, wherein the adapter plate has means for supporting a replaceable cartridge of inter-folded sheet on both sides thereof.

20                 43. The dispenser according to Claim 42, wherein the adapter plate is centrally disposed within the housing whereby the dispenser is configured to receive at least two replaceable cartridges of inter-folded sheet.

25                 44. A replaceable cartridge of inter-folded sheet comprising:

- (a) a stack support member;

- (b) a stack of inter-folded sheets secured about the support member in a U-shape;

30                 (c) a shrink wrap envelope about the stack securing the U-shaped stack of the inter-folded sheets about the support member, the shrink wrap envelope being provided with a dispensing region, wherein the inter-folded sheets are secured about the support member such that their tail edges are generally parallel with the dispensing region of the envelope.

45. The cartridge according to Claim 44, wherein the support member is a rectangular support member.

46. A method of dispensing a stack of inter-folded sheet comprising:

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(a) providing a dispenser cartridge comprising a generally planar rectangular core defining:

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(i) an upper edge, a lower core edge and two lateral core edges;

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(ii) a stack of inter-folded sheets wrapped about the upper edge of the generally planar rectangular core in a U-shape, the stack and core being sized such that lateral edges of the core extend outwardly from the U-shaped stack a predetermined distance therefrom; and

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(iii) a shrink wrap envelope about the stack securing the U-shaped stack of inter-folded sheets about the core, the shrink wrap envelope being provided with a dispensing region generally parallel to the upper edge of the core, wherein the inter-folded sheets are secured about the core such that the tail edges are generally parallel with the dispensing region of the envelope;

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(b) securing the cartridge in a dispenser housing provided with sidewalls and a base wherein the sidewalls of the dispenser have support channels configured to receive the lateral edges of the rectangular core extending from the U-shaped stack by way of engaging the lateral edges of the core in the support channels of the dispenser sidewalls and

wherein the shrink wrap envelope remains in place between the core and support channels of the dispenser;

- 5 (c) fracturing the shrink wrap envelope of the cartridge along the dispensing region of the envelope; and

(d) withdrawing an inter-folded sheet from the stack.